

MISCELLANY

Under this department are ordinarily grouped: News Items; Letters; Special Articles; Twenty-Five Years Ago column; California Board of Medical Examiners; and other columns as occasion may warrant. Items for the News column must be furnished by the fifteenth of the preceding month. For Book Reviews, see index on the front cover, under Miscellany.

NEWS

Coming Meetings.†

California Medical Association, Hotel Del Monte, Del Monte, California, May 5-8, 1941.

American Medical Association, Cleveland, Ohio, June 2-6, 1941.

American College of Physicians, Statler Hotel, Boston, April 21-25, 1941.

American College of Surgeons, Chicago, October 21-25, 1940.

Medical Broadcasts.*

American Medical Association Series of Radio Programs: Every Wednesday, 7:30 p. m., Pacific Time, Over Blue Network.—*Doctors at Work* is the title of the sixth annual series of dramatized radio programs to be presented by the American Medical Association and the National Broadcasting Company.

The series will open on Wednesday, November 13, 1940, and run for thirty consecutive weeks, closing with a broadcast from the American Medical Association meeting at Cleveland on June 3, 1941. The program is scheduled for 10:30 p. m., Eastern standard time (9:30, Central; 8:30, Mountain; 7:30, Pacific time) over the Blue Network, other NBC stations, and Canadian stations.

The programs will dramatize what modern medicine offers the individual in the way of opportunities for better health and the more successful treatment of disease. Incidental to this main theme, the programs will explain the characteristics of the different fields of modern medicine and its specialties.

"Doctors at Work" will be broadcast from scripts by William J. Murphy, NBC script writer and author of many previous American Medical Association and NBC "shows" and other popular radio features. It will be produced under the direction of J. Clinton Stanley, director of "Medicine in the News," last season's successful American Medical Association and NBC health program. Supervision will be by the American Medical Association Bureau of Health Education, directed by Dr. W. W. Bauer.

Descriptive posters for local distribution may be had gratis from the Bureau of Health Education, American Medical Association, 535 North Dearborn Street, Chicago. Program titles will be announced weekly in *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, and monthly in *Hygeia*, the *Health Magazine*.

American Medical Association Broadcasts: "Medicine in the News."—The American Medical Association and the National Broadcasting Company have announced "Medicine in the News," on timely topics from medical

news of the week. Thursdays, 4:30 p. m., Eastern standard time (1:30 p. m., Pacific standard time), Blue Network, coast to coast. Thirty weeks. Opened on November 2, 1939. Facts, drama, entertainment, music.

Pacific States:

KECA	Los Angeles	KEX	Portland
KFSD	San Diego	KJR	Seattle
KGO	San Francisco	KTMS	Santa Barbara
		KGA	Spokane

† † †

Los Angeles County Medical Association.

The radio broadcast program for the Los Angeles County Medical Association for the month of November is as follows:

Saturday, November 2—KFI, 9:45 a. m., The Road of Health; KFAC, 10:15 a. m., Your Doctor and You.

Wednesday, November 6—KECA, 11:15 a. m., The Road of Health.

Saturday, November 9—KFI, 9:45 a. m., The Road of Health; KFAC, 10:15 a. m., Your Doctor and You.

Wednesday, November 13—KECA, 11:15 a. m., The Road of Health.

Saturday, November 16—KFI, 9:45 a. m., The Road of Health; KFAC, 10:15 a. m., Your Doctor and You.

Wednesday, November 20—KECA, 11:15 a. m., The Road of Health.

Saturday, November 23—KFI, 9:45 a. m., The Road of Health; KFAC, 10:15 a. m., Your Doctor and You.

Wednesday, November 27—KECA, 11:15 a. m., The Road of Health.

Saturday, November 30—KFI, 9:45 a. m., The Road of Health; KFAC, 10:15 a. m., Your Doctor and You.

Postgraduate Symposium on Heart Disease: San Francisco Heart Committee.—The eleventh annual Postgraduate Symposium on Heart Disease by the San Francisco Heart Committee will be held in San Francisco on November 26, 27, and 28, 1940, as follows:

Tuesday, November 26—Morning and afternoon clinical sessions will be held at Stanford University Hospital. The evening session, covering technical demonstrations, will be held at the University of California Hospital.

Wednesday, November 27—Morning and afternoon clinical sessions will be held at the University of California Hospital.

Morning and afternoon public health sessions will be held at Mount Zion Hospital.

On Wednesday evening the annual dinner will be held, to which all those who are interested in the problems of heart disease prevention are invited. The speaker of the evening will be Chauncey D. Leake, Ph. D., Professor of Pharmacology, University of California Medical School. The subject will be "Harvey, the Heart, and War." A musical program will also be presented.

Thursday, November 28—Morning and afternoon clinical sessions will be held at the San Francisco Hospital.

A copy of the program and information regarding registration fees and other particulars may be obtained by writing to Dr. Richard D. Friedlander, Program Chairman, San Francisco Heart Committee, 604 Mission Street, Room 802, San Francisco.

† In the front advertising section of *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, a different roster of national officers and organizations appears each week, each list being printed in revised form about every fourth week.

* County societies giving medical broadcasts are requested to send information as soon as arranged (stating station, day, date and hour, and subject) to CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, 450 Sutter Street, San Francisco, for inclusion in this column.

Bovine Tuberculosis Conquered.—All but two counties in California are now free from bovine tuberculosis and these two counties will have their final test in December. In January, the United States will be free from bovine tuberculosis.

Dust Studies Undertaken.—At the request of the Bureau of Reclamation, United States Department of the Interior, arrangements have been made by the State Board of Health of California to conduct medical, engineering, and chemical investigations of the health hazards involved in the inhalation of pumicite dust during the excavation of this material for use in the construction of the Friant dam.

Lectures at Huntington Memorial Hospital, Pasadena: Physicians Invited.—The Board of Trustees of the Collis P. and Howard Huntington Memorial Hospital presents a series of three lectures by Dr. Walter C. Alvarez, consulting physician in the Division of Medicine at the Mayo Clinic, professor of medicine at the University of Minnesota (Mayo Foundation), and formerly professor of medicine at the University of California.

These lectures will be given in Culbertson Hall at the California Institute of Technology at eight o'clock in the evening. (Culbertson Hall is located on the corner of Wilson Avenue and East California Street, Pasadena.)

The dates and subjects are as follows: Wednesday, October 30, Abdominal Pain; Thursday, October 31, Peptic Ulcer; and Friday, November 1, Why a Nervous Break-down?

Southern California Medical Association.—The Southern California Medical Association will hold its 103rd semi-annual meeting on Friday and Saturday, November 15 and 16, 1940, at the California Hotel, San Bernardino. An exceptionally fine program has been arranged which will include subjects of sufficient general interest to be of value to the specialist and general practitioner alike.

The Association is fortunate in having secured two fine guest speakers for this meeting. Dr. Thomas Addis, Professor of Medicine at Stanford University, will address the Association on the "Treatment of Nephritis." Dr. Frederick L. Reichert, Professor of Surgery at Stanford University, will discuss the problem of "Circulatory Disturbances in the Upper and Lower Extremities." The program will include, in addition to several papers of general interest, two symposia; one on "The Present Status of Hypertension," and the other on "Non-Malignant Diseases of the Colon."

The forthcoming meeting will, in addition to broadening our scientific knowledge, give us an opportunity to renew old friendships and make new acquaintances.

Officers for 1940: John B. Doyle, president, Los Angeles; Watie M. Alberty, first vice-president, San Diego; Ray B. McCarthy, second vice-president, Riverside; Edward W. Boland, secretary-treasurer, Los Angeles.

Councilors are: Robert W. Langley, Los Angeles; Merrill W. Hollingsworth, Santa Ana; William H. Barrow, San Diego; John C. Ruddock, Los Angeles; John B. Doyle, ex officio; Edward W. Boland, ex officio.

Board of Governors for 1940 include: F. M. Pottenger, Los Angeles; Egerton L. Crispin, Los Angeles; Joseph K. Swindt, Pomona; Charles T. Sturgeon, Los Angeles; Paul E. Simonds, Riverside; Raymond G. Taylor, Los Angeles; Fred B. Clarke, Long Beach; Carl R. Howson, Los Angeles; Bon O. Adams, Riverside; H. Douglas Eaton, Los Angeles; and Frank R. Nuzum, Santa Barbara.

Programs of the meetings may be secured from the secretary, Edward W. Boland, M. D., 2202 West Third Street, Los Angeles.

Laboratory Infections.—During August two cases of pneumonia occurred in the personnel of the research laboratory conducted by the State Department of Public Health in Berkeley. Both workers were critically ill with what is without a doubt a virus type of pneumonia, and as they were working with such viruses in the laboratory the infections were without doubt contracted there.

Latest Air-Raid Precautions Included in Building Red Cross-Harvard Hospital.—The American Red Cross-Harvard Hospital—a prefabricated 100-bed unit to be set up in England for the study of wartime epidemics under "siege" conditions—will be equipped with air-raid shelters, a score of shatterproof features, and a special camouflage against enemy air raiders. . . .

The hospital will consist of twenty buildings, Mr. Smith said. Plans call for using a special five-ply building board with an insulating core sandwiched between fire-resistant sheets. This will be bolted to a structural steel framework. Each unit will be painted to match the surrounding terrain as a camouflage.

At the end of each unit will be a vestibule arrangement to allow doctors and nurses to enter and leave without light escaping. Windows will consist of three parts: a shutter for blackouts, a special window of nonshatter celoglass, and a screen.

Ventilation experts in this country are devising means of circulating fresh air through the buildings while closed during blackouts. The ventilation system will include filters between wards as a precaution against transmitting disease germs. . . .

Results of the survey will be reported by the Red Cross and Harvard to the United States Public Health Service and the Surgeon-General of the Army and Navy.

Industrial Physicians and Employers to Convene on November 14.—Industrial physicians and manufacturers from all over the country will attend the American Conference on Industrial Health to be held on Thursday, November 14, at the Towers Club in Chicago. The conference will be sponsored by the American Association of Industrial Physicians and Surgeons, a 25-year-old organization.

This first meeting of the American Conference on Industrial Health has for its purpose the correlation of viewpoints of all persons who are interested in promoting industrial health. These include the employer, physician, industrial hygienist, labor, psychiatrist, insurance companies, public relations men, safety expert, and the legal profession.

Dr. Clarence O. Sappington of Chicago, well-known consulting industrial hygienist, and co-chairman of the committee with Dr. Edward C. Holmblad, stated: "We have invited the manufacturer and other persons to attend and participate in the convention so that we may prove the practical value and application of industrial health work, and so that they may realize how much time and money may be saved yearly by such measures."

Among the prominent speakers who will talk at the convention sessions are: Dr. Morris Fishbein, editor of *The Journal of the American Association*; B. C. Heacock, president of the Caterpillar Tractor Company of Peoria; Dr. Volney S. Cheney, medical director of Armour and Company; and J. M. Conway, representing the National Association of Manufacturers, New York.

The conference, which is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a. m., will conclude with a dinner session at which Doctor Fishbein and Mr. Conway will speak.

Migrant Problem in Southwest.—The National Tuberculosis Association has called a meeting of the Tuberculosis Secretaries of the Southwestern States at Santa Fe on October 28 and 29 for discussion of the migrant problem. Others interested in this problem in the Southwestern States have been invited to participate. The discussion will center around the "special measures needed to reduce the death rate in the high death rate states."

The meeting is timely following as it does the recent hearings of the Tolan Committee in San Francisco and preceding the announcement of the Tolan Committee report.

During the San Francisco hearings of the Tolan Congressional Committee the California Tuberculosis Association filed a brief setting forth four conclusions:

1. The migrant problem is almost unapproachable until uniform settlement laws are established in all states.
2. Provision should be made for medical and hospital care of transients found to have tuberculosis or other disease which might be communicated to residents of the states.
3. The Social Security policy of giving grants in aid to counties for maintenance of full-time health units should be continued.
4. There should be established a program of relief for migrants, details of such program to be sought from experts in that field.

Northwestern University Medical School.—Eighty fledgling doctors are among the students who are "living high" at Northwestern University this year in the new twenty-story Abbott Hall, believed to be the tallest building in the world used exclusively as a university dormitory.

Housing 850 students on the University's Chicago campus, where the medical and dental schools and the school of law are located, the new building is 210 feet tall and cost more than \$1,750,000.

It is a city in itself, with shops, libraries, dining rooms, lounges, exercise facilities including bowling alleys and squash courts, and a recreational roof garden at the tenth-floor level. Across Lake Shore Drive is a new sand beach on Lake Michigan.

The building itself is L-shaped and is modified Gothic in style. It is built of Indiana limestone to conform with other buildings on the campus. Abbott Hall contains 2,200,000 cubic feet and is of completely fireproof construction.

The building was named for Wallace C. Abbott, founder of Abbott Laboratories, and his wife, Clara A. Abbott, from whose estate Northwestern University received last December a gift of \$1,500,000 for use in medical, chemical, and surgical research.

Students in the medical school will live on the sixth, seventh, eighth, and ninth floors of Abbott Hall. Each residential floor accommodates fifty-six students and has two shower rooms, two lavatories, and a large lounge facing toward the lake.

Arrangements permit members of the fifteen fraternities which had occupied temporary residences near the campus to have a floor, or a part of a floor, for their exclusive use. Among fraternities using the building's facilities are several medical groups. The dormitory relieves congestion in near north side housing for some of the 1,200 students enrolled in the University's professional schools.

The skyscraper dormitory is the eighth structure on Northwestern University's Chicago campus, where the professional schools and the evening departments are located. In 1924, Mrs. Montgomery Ward gave more than \$8,000,000 to build and endow the Ward Memorial building, which houses the classrooms and clinics of the medical and dental schools. . . .

Tuberculosis Statistics for California Counties.—The California Tuberculosis Association (45 Second Street, San Francisco) has brought off the press an interesting analysis of tuberculosis morbidity and mortality, in relation to California's counties. Copies of the table may be obtained from the Association for 15 cents each, postage prepaid.

Conjunctivitis Among Welders.—During the past year 746 cases of conjunctivitis among welders were reported in California, which number constitutes 13 per cent of all occupational diseases reported. The hazard is important since it can be prevented by wearing goggles or helmets fitted with glass of proper shade to filter out the injurious ultra-violet rays from the welding arc or torch.

Psittacosis Control.—During the month of August, 168 interstate shipping certificates were issued by the State Board of Public Health of California for 2,678 shell parakeets and 204 larger psittacine birds. Also, ninety-eight shell parakeet aviary inspections were made.

A fatal case in Long Beach was investigated. The patient was a pet shop operator. Postmortem tissue was found to be positive for psittacosis, also three shell parakeets in her pet shop were infected. One of these birds was actively shedding the virus in nasal discharges.

Advances in Treating Syphilis.—Recent advances in methods of treating syphilis will be described to practicing physicians in a postgraduate course to be given here on January 6 to 8, 1941, by the University of California Medical School.

The course, designed to acquaint practicing physicians with newest research developments in various fields of dermatology, will deal with the principles of treatment in early, latent and late syphilis; fever therapy as an adjunct in the treatment of neurosyphilis and the newly developed "five-day" treatment now undergoing clinical tests at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York.

Other research developments to be covered in the three-day course will concern precancerous skin conditions; vitamin treatment of skin disease; immunization for poison oak and allergy in dermatology.

A complete program will be sent by the Dean's Office of the University of California Medical School, San Francisco, to any physician interested.

Scientists Warn on Plane-Carried Mosquitoes.—Development of more effective control measures is needed to insure against epidemics that may be started by airplane transport of disease-carrying mosquitoes to uninfected parts of the world.

This is a warning voiced in a new book, "Mosquito Control," written by Dr. William B. Herms of the University of California College of Agriculture, and Harold F. Gray, consulting civil engineer. The book was published by the Commonwealth Fund of New York.

The scientists point out that the dangers of infecting uninfected areas has been increased with airplanes making extensive trips within a few hours or days. Even in earlier times slow-moving sailing ships, where breeding en route was possible, were known to have introduced mosquitoes into isolated islands such as Hawaii.

An epidemic might be started in one of the southern cities of the United States by transport of a yellow-fever bearing species from a South American airport, Doctor Herms and Gray write.

They added that transport of a malaria-carrying species from California to Hawaii, where the disease was un-

known, by a Pan-American Airways clipper plane, ultimately may become both a public health and an economic disaster to the Islands.

Pointing out that spraying en route with possibly inflammable and toxic sprays is both dangerous and irritating to passengers, the scientists said the following steps should be taken:

Rigid control measures within a half-mile radius of airports should be instituted; special screened double-door embarkation vestibules for passengers should be used; planes should be mosquito-proofed so far as possible; a new spray, highly toxic for mosquitoes but nontoxic for humans, noninflammable, nonexplosive, and free of oily residue should be developed.

Press Clippings.—Some news items from the daily press on matters related to medical practice follow:

Medical Lectures to Open

Opening lectures in a new series of public medical discussions sponsored by the Los Angeles County Medical Association will be held at 8 p. m. today in the El Rodeo School auditorium at Wilshire Boulevard and Whittier Drive, Beverly Hills.

Tonight's program will include a historical review of "Medicine Through the Ages" by Stanley K. Cochems, executive secretary of the Los Angeles County Medical Association. Dr. Lowell S. Goin will speak on cancer, giving a general survey, facts and fallacies of the disease.

Preliminary discussions concerning general medical education in Los Angeles County and the State will be presented by Dr. Harry H. Wilson, president of the California Medical Association, and Dr. Roy E. Thomas, president of the county association.—*Los Angeles Times*, October 15.

Use of Insurance Company Doctors as Impartial Medical Examiners Scored

San Francisco.—The legal department of the California State Federation of Labor took direct issue last week with the State Industrial Accident Commission over the commission's practice of referring injured workers to insurance company doctors for examination. The federation objected to the use of such doctors as impartial medical examiners.

In a letter to the commission concerning the case of an injured union carpenter from Oakland, named Pallister, the federation legal department informed the State Industrial Accident Commission that it had instructed Pallister to ignore the commission's order for him to report to an insurance company doctor for examination.

"It is a matter of common knowledge," the letter said, "that the doctor in question receives a large part of his income from insurance companies. . . .

"We felt, under the circumstances, that this doctor should not be appointed as an impartial medical examiner in this case or in any other case. We feel that even though he is not consciously prejudiced against an injured worker and in favor of an employer, or insurance carrier, his position would unconsciously prejudice him and affect any opinion he might render as to the right of the injured worker to collect an award of compensation."—*Fresno Labor News*, September 27.

Medical Care of Workers Scored

American Federation of Labor Asks Correction of "Abuses" Under Compensation Law

By Al T. Baum

Labor Editor, *The Examiner*

Long brewing friction between organized labor, principally building trades unions, and the State Industrial Accident Commission over asserted abuses in connection with medical attention accorded injured workers under provisions of the workmen's compensation act broke into the open yesterday.

Acting in accordance with a number of resolutions adopted by the Santa Monica convention last month, the legal department of the State Federation of Labor announced a list of demands for "correction of abuses" which will be presented to the State Industrial Commission.

Chief Objections

Main points of objection by the federation include:

1. Use of doctors under salary from insurance companies to treat injured workers and advise on the extent of their injuries.

2. Use of doctors under contract with insurance companies to treat injured workers and advise on the extent of their injuries.

3. Favoritism by the State fund in the selection of doctors.

A prepared statement from local federation headquarters declares that "it is obvious" that a physician depending upon an insurance company for a salary is "not a free agent" and that workers treated by such physicians are often denied proper medical attention "because of the cost."

Fee Policy Charged

Contract doctors, the statement continues, usually work for insurance companies under contracts which give them a percentage of the gross insurance written by the companies in their territories. "The less medical service furnished, the more the doctors make," it is charged.

The following suggestion was offered by the State Federation:

"Establishment of panels in every section of competent industrial surgeons to be prepared by a committee composed of representatives from the University of California and Stanford medical schools, various county medical societies, State industrial accident commission and the State Federation of Labor.—*San Francisco Examiner*, October 17.

* * *

Pay Ward Sought at Tulare Hospital

Tulare (Exclusive).—The Tulare County Farm Bureau and Grange today started circulation of petitions asking the county to provide a pay ward at the County Hospital here, to permit treatment of pay patients as well as charity patients.

The petition suggests a ceiling of 5 cents increase in the tax rate for the project. This would raise \$40,000 for the pay wing, Chairman Joe Hill of the Farm Bureau Hospitalization Committee said.—*Los Angeles Times*, October 4.

* * *

American Medical Association Library

The library of the American Medical Association, which ordinarily receives 1,400 periodicals, reports that medical literature from Europe is scarce these days.—*Hanford Journal*, September 29.

* * *

High-Lights of High School Happenings

An essay contest, sponsored by the California Medical Association for students in California high schools and junior colleges has been approved by the State Department of Education. "The Role of Doctor of Medicine in the Life and Health of the American Citizen," is the contest title.

Prizes will be of \$100, first; \$50, second; \$25, third; and five prizes of \$5.00 each, accompanied by an appropriate certificate. The essays are to be original works of 3,000 words.

The contest is scheduled to close November 15 with awards being made about December 15.—*Eureka Standard*, October 4.

* * *

Pay-Hour Law Change

Act Revised to Exempt White Collar Workers Making \$200 per Month: Professional Employees

Washington (AP).—The wage-hour administration revised its rules today for the exemption of "white collar" workers from hours restrictions of the labor standards law, established a \$200 monthly salary as one yardstick for determining who is an exempt administrative or professional employee.

The new rules go into effect October 24 when forty hours becomes the standard work week for all workers covered by the act. The present maximum work week without overtime pay is forty-two hours.

Altogether, the administration made changes affecting its definitions of executive, administrative and professional employees, retail trade workers and outside salesmen. . . .

An Executive and Administrator Defined

In revising the definitions, the administration at the outset made separate classifications for "executive" and "administrative" which heretofore have been included under one definition.

An executive was defined broadly as an employee who has management duties and power to hire or fire, is paid at least \$30 a week, and does no more than 20 per cent of the kind of work performed by nonexempt employees. If he does more than 20 per cent nonexempt work, he would be classified as a working foreman and entitled to overtime pay.

An exempted administrative worker was defined as one who is engaged under only general supervision in non-manual work related directly to management policies or general business operations which require the exercise of discretion and independent judgment, and who receives \$200 a month or more.